

THE BYZANTINE WORLD 300-1453
History 210/Classics 210

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Office hours: T & Th 11:30-12:30
and by appointment

T & Th 10:00-11:15
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Mather Memorial 125

This course will trace the development of the Byzantine empire from the emperor Constantine's conversion to Christianity and founding of the eastern capital at Constantinople, to the fall of Constantinople to Turkish forces in 1453.

Books required:

Elizabeth Dawes & Norman Baynes, eds. Three Byzantine Saints. St. Vladimir's.
Timothy E. Gregory. A History of Byzantium. Blackwell.
Procopius. The Secret History. Penguin.
Michael Psellus. Fourteen Byzantine Rulers. Penguin.

The required books should be available at the book store, except the Dawes book, which is currently out of print. Copies of this book can be purchased elsewhere. There is a copy of Dawes and of Psellus on reserve at Kelvin Smith Library. The History of Byzantium is a recent introduction to Byzantine history, mostly narrative, but also including good maps and brief topical essays. The Dawes book is a collection of saints' lives, primary sources from the early Byzantine period. The Secret History is also a primary source, one of Procopius' accounts of the reign of the sixth-century emperor Justinian. The Psellus book is another primary source chronicling the reigns of various emperors in the tenth and eleventh centuries. Students will also be responsible for any readings on reserve at the library, distributed in class or posted on the Blackboard site for this course.

Attendance: Consistent attendance in this course is imperative. The schedule of topics and readings below is tentative. Regular attendance will ensure you remain up-to-date on any changes or additional readings assigned, and will enable you to participate fully in class discussions. What will probably not change are the dates of exams and due dates for paper assignments. Although failing to attend class cannot mathematically hurt your grade, attendance will be considered in the case of borderline a grade.

Grading: The final grade in this course will be based on the best four of five assignments, three exams and two papers. The lowest grade will be dropped and the remaining four grades will count 25% each. Examinations must be taken and assignments handed in at the scheduled time. For each day late, a paper will lose five

points, that is one-half a letter grade, unless prior arrangement has been made. No make-up examinations will be allowed unless the student has a documented excuse. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in written assignments. For clarification, consult the university plagiarism policy at: www.cwru.edu/pubs/ssg/ssg8.html. Students are bound by these rules even if they don't read them. There will also be opportunity to discuss "departmental expectations" in class.

You will be more likely to find me during office hours if you let me know ahead of time you are coming. The best way to get in touch with me outside office hours is e-mailing me at ext13@case.edu. You may also leave a message in my mailbox on the first floor of Mather House or leave a phone message with the history department office at 216-368-2380. I do not have voice mail. Please do not leave messages with the other folks who share my office.

CLASS SCHEDULE

- August 25 & 27 Introduction
 The Roman Empire & Christianity
Gregory- Preface, Introduction, cc. 1-2;
- September 1 & 3 The Age of Constantine the Great
Gregory c. 3; Constantine Conversion handout;
Council of Nicea handout
- September 8 & 10 The Fourth and Fifth Centuries
Gregory cc. 4 & 5; Monasticism handout
- September 15 & 17 The Age of Justinian
Gregory c. 6; Secret History, all; Buildings
selection; Procopius study guide
FIRST EXAM- THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17
- September 22 & 24 Collapse of the Early Byzantine Synthesis
Heraclius and the Rise of Islam
Gregory c. 7; Saints, Ss. Daniel & Theodore;
Theophanes handout;
- September 29
& October 1 The Arab Conquests
Iconoclasm
Gregory c. 8;
FIRST PAPER DUE THURSDAY OCTOBER 1
- October 6 & 8 Challenge from the West
Toward a New Synthesis
Gregory c. 9;

October 13 & 15 Byzantium in the Ninth Century
 Gregory c. 10; Rus handout;
 SECOND EXAM- THURSDAY OCTOBER 15

 NO CLASS TUESDAY OCTOBER 20- FALL BREAK

October 22 The Macedonian Dynasty
 Constantine VII handout;

October 27 & 29 Byzantine Society and Culture
 The Apogee of Byzantine Power
 Gregory c. 11; Psellos, all; Digenes Akritas
 handout;

November 3 & 5 The Eleventh Century
 Alexius Comnenus and the First Crusade
 Gregory c. 12; Alexius I handout;

November 10 & 12 The Twelfth & Thirteenth Centuries
 Gregory c. 13; Fourth Crusade handout

November 17 & 19 Latins and Turks
 The Fourteenth Century
 Gregory cc. 14 & 15; Dualism handout; Hesychasm
 handout;
 SECOND PAPER DUE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17

November 24 More Fourteenth Century
 NO CLASS THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26- THANKSGIVING BREAK

December 1 & 3 The End of the Empire
 Review
 THIRD EXAM- THURSDAY DECEMBER 3

There is no cumulative final exam.

This syllabus is subject to change.